



City of Miami Springs, Florida

City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 27, 2021 7:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers, 201 Westward Drive, Miami Springs, Florida

Virtual Council Meeting using Communications Media Technology Pursuant to
Governor's Executive Order 20-69

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 7:05 p.m.

Present were the following:

Mayor Maria Puente Mitchell

Vice Mayor Bob Best

Councilwoman Jacky Bravo

Councilman Walter Fajet, Ph.D.

Councilman Victor Vazquez, Ph.D.

City Manager/Finance Director William Alonso

Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero

City Clerk Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria

City Attorney Haydee Sera (via Zoom)

- 2. Invocation:** Offered by Councilwoman Jacky Bravo
Pledge of Allegiance: Audience led the Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag.

- 3. Agenda / Order of Business: None at this time.**

- 4. Awards & Presentations:**

A) Presentation by the Woman's Club on the "The Witches of Westward" event on October 23rd and October 24th

Witch Binks representing the "Witches of Westward" affiliated with the Miami Springs Woman's Club spoke of the event occurring on October 23rd and 24th for the Halloween season. She also requested from the City Council to allow the witches fly their brooms those evenings, the City Council gave general consensus on the request.

- 5. Open Forum:** The following members of the public addressed the City Council: No speakers at this time.

- 6. Approval of Council Minutes:**

A) August 30, 2021 – Budget Workshop

B) September 13, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Vice Mayor Best moved to approve the minutes of August 30, 2021 Budget Workshop, and September 13, 2021 Regular Meeting. Councilwoman Bravo made a correction to 8B motion, *“Councilman Fajet made a motion to set the millage rate at the rollback rate of 7.2095 mills and to include the tuition reimbursement program as part of the budget, any deficit would be covered by the reserves. ~~Councilman Fajet~~ Councilwoman Bravo seconded the motion...”* Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

7. Reports from Boards & Commissions:

A) Board update by Eric Richey, Chair of the Parks and Parkways Advisory Board

Chair Richey provided a brief update on the advisory boards past and current actions and projects. He thanked the City Council for the invitation.

B) Board update by Wendy Anderson-Booher, Chair of the Ecology Advisory Board

Chair Anderson-Booher gave a brief update on the Board’s recent actions and upcoming projects. She thanked the City Council for having her present this evening.

8. Public Hearings:

A) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Adopting The Final Millage Rate For The Fiscal Year Commencing October 1, 2021 And Ending September 30, 2022 In The Amount Of 7.2095 Mills, Which Is The Same As The Roll-Back Rate Of 7.2095 Mills; Announcing The Percentage Increase In Property Taxes; And Providing For An Effective Date

City Attorney Haydee Sera read the Resolution by title. Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing; there were no speakers. The public hearing closed.

Councilman Vazquez moved to approve the Resolution as read. Vice Mayor Best seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

B) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Adopting A Final Budget For The Fiscal Year Commencing October 1, 2021 And Ending September 30, 2022; Providing For Expenditure Of Budgeted Funds; Providing For Budgetary Controls; Providing For Grants And Gifts; Providing For Budget

Amendments; Providing For Encumbrances; And Providing For An Effective Date

City Attorney Haydee Sera read the Resolution by title. Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing; there were no speakers. The public hearing closed.

Councilman Fajet moved to approve the Resolution as read. Councilman Vazquez seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

9. Consent Agenda: (Funded and/or Budgeted): None at this time.

10. Old Business: None at this time.

11. New Business:

A) Resolution – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Approving A Professional Services Agreement With Belltower Consulting Group, LLC For Grant Writing Services In An Amount Not To Exceed \$36,000 For An Initial One-Year Term With Up To Four One-Year Option Terms; Providing For A Waiver Of Competitive Bidding; Providing For Authorization; And Providing For An Effective Date

Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero read the Resolution by title. Keesha Morris-Moreau, President and CEO of Belltower Consulting Group was present to answer the City Council’s questions.

Vice Mayor Best moved to approve the Resolution as read. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

B) Resolution – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Authorizing The Submission Of A Grant Application To The Florida Department Of Transportation (FDOT) Relating To Transportation Services; Authorizing The Acceptance Of A Grant Award From FDOT, If Awarded; Authorizing The Purchase Of Vehicles And/Or Equipment And/Or Expenditure Of Grant Funds Pursuant To A Grant Award; And Providing For An Effective Date

City Manager William Alonso read the Resolution by title.

Councilman Vazquez moved to approve the Resolution as read. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

12. Other Business:

- A) Update on Nuisance Abatement Board

City Manager William Alonso provided an update on the status of the Nuisance Abatement Board. He stated that Staff's recommendation is to designate the Code Compliance Board as the Public Nuisance Abatement Board. He stated that there will be very few cases at this time, and in the event, there is a higher number of cases then a recommendation in the future will be to appoint members to a separate board for the Nuisance Abatement Board.

13. Reports & Recommendations:

- A) City Attorney

- Request for Executive Session reference City of Miami Springs v. Runway Partners LLC

City Attorney Haydee Sera requested from the City Council a few dates and times to meet for an Executive Session. After some discussion, the City Council conceded to schedule the Attorney-Client meeting for October 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

- B) City Manager

City Manager William Alonso advised that the vaccination site will be available every Tuesday and Friday at the Aquatic Center. He also informed the Council that he Mobile Driver Licenses will be starting in October.

- C) City Council

Vice Mayor Best thanked the Chairs of the Boards that attended this evening to provide updates on their respective boards to Council. He thanked the Administration for hiring a Grant Writer without expending too much funding. He also provided an update on the War Memorial project being done by the American Legion.

Councilwoman Bravo thanked City Council and City Staff for another purposeful meeting. She thanked Vice Mayor Best for always considering the resident veterans.

Councilman Fajet thanked the City Manager and City Staff for the budget process and having no speakers during the budget process says a lot about the outcome. He also thanked all the members of the City's Advisory Boards for their time and dedication.

Councilman Vazquez expressed the need to review the City Code on signage, specifically on NW 36th Street. Councilman Vazquez thanked his colleague Vice Mayor Best for his efforts in the process of the War Memorial project.

Mayor Mitchell thanked Vice Mayor Best and Councilman Vazquez; and Manny Perez, Architect, for their continuous efforts on the War Memorial project. She reminded the Council and the public that the second Business and Economic Task Force meeting will take place on October 7th at 6:00 p.m.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC
City Clerk



Adopted by the City Council on
This 11th day of October, 2021.


Maria Puente Mitchell, Mayor

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES 286.0105, THE CITY HEREBY ADVISES THE PUBLIC THAT IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THIS COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT ITS MEETING OR HEARING, HE OR SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THE AFFECTED PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE CONSENT BY THE CITY FOR THE INTRODUCTION OR ADMISSION OF OTHERWISE INADMISSIBLE OR IRRELEVANT EVIDENCE, NOR DOES IT AUTHORIZE CHALLENGES OR APPEALS NOT OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY LAW.